(b) whether area of Sal Wood is gradually dwindling due to felling of trees;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken any special measures to take up plantation of Sal Wood plantation in the new areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment is 6,40,107 sq. km. However, the specie-wise assessment of the forest area is not undertaken by the Forest Survey of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Diesel Loco Shed

2107. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway Board is contemplating on the scheme of constructing Diesel Loco Shed in Barauni Garhara; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Train Services in Gujarat

2108. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rail facilities are lacking in Gujarat especially in its tribal areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government propose to reintroduce Ankleshwar-Rajipla, Kaishamba-Umarpada, Chota-Udaipur-Baroda train services in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed for improving train services in the tribal areas of the State during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The rail kms in Gujarat per lakh of population is 12.89 as compared to all India average of 7.41 kms.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Improvements/introduction of train services including in tribal areas is a continuous process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and resources availability. Additional train services proposed in Gujarat are as follows :

After Gauge Conversion of the Delhi-Ahmedabad route, BG services will be provided on Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Delhi and Ahmedabad-Jodhpur-Bikaner sections. Other facilities include (i) Anand-Godhra MEMU service. (ii) Ahmedabad-Mehasana-Abu Road DMU/Push Pull service. (iii) Mehasana-Taranga Hill Rail bus service (iv) Increase in frequency of 6045/6046 Madras-Ahmedabad Navjeevan Express from six days a week to daily and 8403/8404 Puri-Ahmedabad from weekly to tri-weekly.

Electrification of Bhagalpur-Kiul Rail Line

2109. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for electrification of Bhagalpur-Kiul Rail line is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the electrification work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Fish Farmers Development Agencies

2110. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fish farmers development agencies in Assam are not working properly particularly in the Southern Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether about thirty five thousands families of fishermen in Southern Assam are facing acute problem of earning because of gradual dwindling of the catches; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to improve upon the situation?